

Justification for CRD Visits to the Presidential Libraries

The Truman Library has identified about 50,000 pages of material of interest to, or produced by, CIA. Of this, less than 4,000 pages are serially-numbered reports which can be reviewed for declassification by reference to their identity numbers. The Eisenhower Library has identified nearly 140,000 pages of material of interest to us, of which some 6,000 pages can be reviewed in the same way. Without on-site inspection of the remaining 180,000 pages, the Agency cannot ensure proper protection of the national security information included in these files. We have been advised by a member of the National Security Council staff that documents containing highly classified information have been identified which contain no classification markings. The Library staffs, like the NARS staff in Washington, must be given advice and counsel in identifying and processing this kind of material to supplement written guidelines which by nature must be quite general. We will also be able to assist the Library staffs to prepare indices and other finding aids to the material in the Presidential Libraries in a way that will ensure that no classified information is divulged. The Kennedy and Johnson Library staffs have not yet been able to identify the amounts of information of concern to the Agency in their holdings. The Carter Library is reported to have 1,000 cubic feet of records related to national security matters. As public institutions, the Presidential Libraries are subject to many pressures to release information. In this atmosphere, we believe that it is necessary to provide on-site assistance to the Libraries to protect Agency equities and to declassify records to the extent possible.